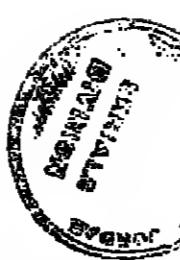


Schwarzkopf back in Gulf

BAHRUIN (AP) — General H. Norman Schwarzkopf was back Sunday in the Gulf, this time for the 42-day Gulf war and the 700,000 allied forces he commanded. Mr. Schwarzkopf arrived in Saudi Arabia after a two-day stopover in Egypt for a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, one of the leading Arab members of the 33-nation alliance. U.S. military spokesman at the joint information bureau in the kingdom would only confirm that he had arrived in Saudi Arabia, but would not provide details on his schedule, or say where he had landed. "All we can say is he's here to visit troops," said Captain Dave Mallard at the information bureau in Dhahran. Most of the troops commanded by Gen. Schwarzkopf during the war have already left, and been replaced by new forces since the general returned to the United States in April. Gen. Schwarzkopf had directed Operation Desert Storm from makeshift headquarters in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. When he left Egypt, he was reportedly headed for Jordan. While in Cairo, Gen. Schwarzkopf told reporters he was ready to command another military strike against Iraq if ordered.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Volume 16 Number 4755

AMMAN MONDAY, JULY 22, 1991, MUHARRAM 10, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Jordan to reopen embassy in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Jordan's new charge d'affaires arrived to Beirut Sunday to reopen the Kingdom's embassy, closed during the civil war. Atif Halasa told reporters that he would make arrangements to reopen the embassy next week. It was closed in 1982 after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Mr. Halasa said Jordan backed the Lebanese government's drive to extend its authority throughout the country, including a border strip held by Israel and its militia in South Lebanon. "We hope the Lebanese government would be able to expand its control to every kilometre of land," Mr. Halasa said.

Syria discusses Lebanon with U.N.

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Sharif met U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Marrack Goulding Sunday to discuss the security situation in Lebanon. An official source said their talks focused on U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanese territory. Mr. Goulding arrived in Damascus Saturday and met Syrian Vice-President Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Israel, Albania to establish full ties

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Albania will establish full diplomatic relations in the next few weeks, an Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday. Israel's ambassador to Rome, Mordechai Brody, and Albanian leaders agreed on the move at a meeting in Tirana. Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani will visit Israel within two weeks, the spokesman said. "In the last few months most of the Albanian Jews left Albania and immigrated to Israel," the spokesman said. "Relations have been good in the last few months. There is even an Israeli-Albanian friendship league in Tirana."

Businessmen reported missing

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Two businessmen, an American and a British citizen, were reported missing in Kuwait, and diplomats said Sunday they may have strayed into Iraq. "We are following up reports that an American is missing and reports he may be in Iraq," said an American diplomat, who insisted on anonymity. An official at the British embassy said the Foreign Office in London had been in contact with Iraqi diplomats "to seek help in getting the release" of a missing British national. They refused to give the names of the missing men or give any clues on when and where they may have strayed across the border.

Mujahideen scorn U.N. election plan

PESHAWAR (R) — Mujahideen guerrilla officials said Sunday they would press for a military victory in the Afghan war as elections would not provide a solution. Military representatives of the seven main guerrilla groups virtually dismissed a United Nations peace plan for a ceasefire and free elections to end 13 years of war against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. "The jihad is going on all over Afghanistan, stronger than ever before," Mohammad Musa of the Islamic Unity Party told a news conference.

U.N. official calls for aid for Africans

ADDIS ABABA (R) — U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata appealed to the international community Sunday to meet a \$70 million shortfall in funds needed to help 22 million Africans suffering from drought and war. Mr. Ogata, in Ethiopia to visit refugee centres, said a \$376 million fund set up for the Horn of Africa was still short of \$70 million. The money was needed to help overcome the worsening drought and refugee situation in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya.

Jordan ready to attend peace conference, lift boycott if conditions right

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that Jordan was prepared to attend a Middle East peace conference and accept Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's suggestion to lift the Arab boycott on companies dealing with Israel if Israel stopped building settlements in the occupied territories.

King Hussein told journalists at the Royal Palace following a three-hour meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the Kingdom, which has the longest border with Israel, was ready to attend a conference that would address and settle the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli dimensions of the Middle East conflict.

"We are ready to attend the peace conference and we are very happy indeed that it is going to be a comprehensive one," the King told reporters.

"When the process is there, when the conference is there, Jordan will be amongst the first to attend it," he added.

Mr. Baker arrived in Amman from Jeddah on his third visit to Jordan and flew to Israel to hold talks with Palestinian leaders and Israeli officials.

As he headed for occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Baker carried Arab support for the U.S.-proposed peace conference with no positive indication that Israel was willing to accept U.N. participation and reconvening of the conference if and when needed.

The conference, which will have direct Arab-Israeli negotiations on the one hand and Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on the other with the presence of the U.N. as observer, has been strongly rejected by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing government. The negotiations, it is envisaged, should lead to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which is based on the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The King said that he accepted the idea of lifting the Arab boycott on companies doing business with Israel in return for Israel stopping its building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"If the dynamics of the situation can be worked out, then yes, by all means," the King said in reply to a question whether Jordan was ready to lift the boycott. Sandi Arafa said Saturday that it also prepared to lift the boycott imposed on companies

(Continued on page 5)

Baker meets Palestinians and Shamir, but no quick answers

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with a Palestinian delegation Sunday, then sat down with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to try and win his support for a Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Baker and the three Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip met for two hours at the U.S. consul's house in West Jerusalem. They made no comment afterward.

The delegates, Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi and Zakaria Agha, are identified with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Muslim fundamentalist groups and bardine PLO factions boycotted the meeting, saying in leaflets distributed Sunday that the U.S. peace initiative would fall short of their minimal demand — a Palestinian state.

Israel and the United States have a Palestinian state.

Hardliners and Muslim fundamentalists issued a leaflet calling

for an "escalation" of anti-Israeli activity during Mr. Baker's visit.

About 30 Jewish right-wingers gathered outside the consular residence and shouted "Baker go home" as the secretary of state drove away.

Mr. Husseini's group reportedly accepted limited autonomy for the Palestinians as an interim solution, combined with American assurances that Israel will later negotiate the final status of the occupied territories.

The moderates also said they are willing to negotiate with Israel as part of a joint delegation with Jordan, a position the fundamentalists and hardline PLO factions reject.

Mr. Baker then drove to Mr. Shamir's office to seek Israel's acceptance of a regional peace conference that would lead to direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

The U.S. formula says the conference could be reconvened in case of a deadlock if all sides

agree. A U.N. observer would attend.

Israel objects to any U.N. role and the reconvening of the conference, but pressure mounted for Israeli concessions after Arab countries modified their positions.

The outlook for a quick response from the Israeli government to the conference idea faded when Mr. Baker, who was reported by Israeli sources to be feeling unwell, scheduled a shortened afternoon session with Mr. Shamir. He postponed a full session with Mr. Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Moshe Arens until Monday morning.

Mr. Baker said in Amman he hoped the United States would be able to issue invitations to the conference soon. But, in a broad hint to Israel, he suggested that Washington might not wait for everybody's agreement.

"It is my hope that we could convene this conference within a reasonable time period."

Offered end to boycott will not mean Arab trade with Israel

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's announcement that it is willing to lift the Arab economic boycott of Israel if the conditions were right does not necessarily mean normalisation of trade between Israel and the Arab states but lifting restrictions placed on third party countries and companies.

According to economists and politicians contacted by the Jordan Times, the offer by Egypt, later accepted by Saudi Arabia and Jordan, covers companies and countries who were banned from trade with Arab countries because of their deals with Israel or investments in that country.

His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that Jordan would accept the proposal if the dynamics of the situation could be worked out.

The King was speaking at a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the end of the American official's short visit to the Kingdom.

Dr. Jawad Anani, an economist and former minister of trade, said that the proposal, if adopted, would be "more of a gesture to the American and European companies who deal with Israel than one towards Israel itself."

Dr. Abdullah Maliki, an economist and head of the Association of Banks in Jordan, also confirmed that the boycott list, compiled by the Damascus-based

Arab Boycott office, "dealt mainly with third parties who conduct business with Israel and were until now boycotted by Arab countries."

Dr. Anani said that the Arab boycott was a three-pronged approach to products and commodities marketed by companies which invested in Israel, carried an Israeli input, or were purely Israeli in origin.

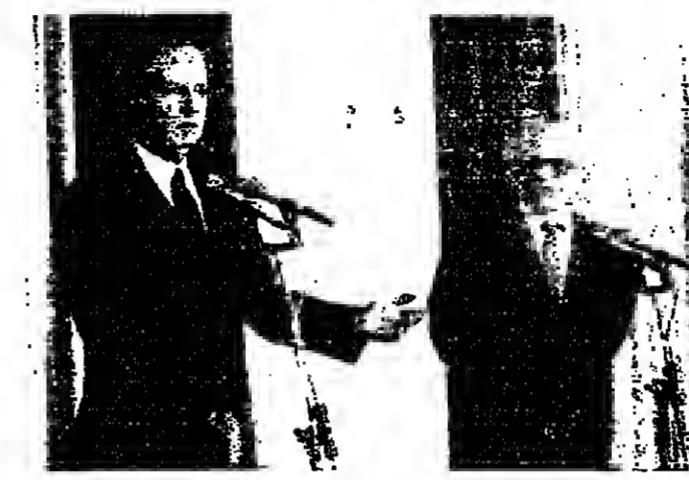
"It is not clear what the Egyptians proposed exactly, but the boycott has different forms," Dr. Anan pointed out.

The first form, according to Dr. Anan, deals with countries which invest in Israel. The second form is whether the commodities of these companies have any Israeli input and the third form is whether the commodity is directly produced in Israel.

"The question is what does this boycott mean? Does it mean the companies or countries which invest in Israel? If it is, and I think that is what is meant, then it is a gesture to the United States and Europe," Dr. Anan said.

He explained that Japanese companies, especially car manufacturers, did not conduct business with Israel because of the lucrative business they would have been denied in the Arab World.

Dr. Maliki, who insisted that it would be illegal for any Arab country to unilaterally decide to end the boycott of Israel and its companies directly, said that the Arab boycott was intended as a



His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Sunday address a press conference at the royal palace (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

PLO accepts Bush proposals

NICOSIA (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials Sunday dropped its insistence on attending a Middle East peace conference, saying the PLO accepts U.S. proposals that delegates from inside and outside Israeli-occupied territories could represent Palestinian interests.

"We accept President George Bush's proposals and the PLO is ready to form its delegation to the peace conference from Palestinians from the occupied territories and outside the occupied territories, a delegation that represents the Palestinians," said Bassem Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"By doing so we are in fact accepting Mr. Baker's proposal," Mr. Abu Sharif said, referring to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is making his fifth Middle East tour this year to start a Middle East peace conference.

"We are willing to go to a regional conference that is held on the basis which President Bush has defined," Mr. Abu Sharif said in a telephone interview from PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Although he refused to elaborate, Mr. Abu Sharif seemed to be indicating that as long as the PLO has a say in who represents Palestinians, the delegation does not necessarily have to include PLO members.

But other PLO officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, have been more explicit during the past few days, saying that to facilitate the peace process and bypass Israeli objections, the organisation is willing to settle for a say in the choice of delegates and contributing through them to the negotiations.

The PLO also wants to reserve the right that Palestinian participants should refer to the PLO on all positions during the negotiations, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The intentional marginalisation of the PLO was left to the Defence Ministry to undermine the autonomy talks between the Kurdish minority and the government."

"The Iranian people will be held responsible for this game... and for the difficulties facing the normalisation of relations between Iranians and Iraqis," said the editorial carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

Iraq has repeatedly accused Iran, its foe in a bloody war from 1980-88, of interfering in its internal affairs.

It says Iran sponsored the anti-government violence that erupted at this time. To me it means that this issue was added to the agenda of the peace meeting so that it can be relaxed pending the outcome of negotiations," Dr. Anan said.

"The countries involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, in my opinion, have already started their negotiations," Dr. Anan asserted.

"No one can pass judgement at this time. To me it means that this issue was added to the agenda of the peace meeting so that it can be relaxed pending the outcome of negotiations," Dr. Anan said.

The official acknowledged it would be difficult to insist on its demands. He said the PLO is being ignored by Arabs and this means "more pressure on the organisation to provide free concessions without any commitments from the Americans to preserve Palestinian rights."

Bush calls again for freeze on Israeli settlements

ISTANBUL (R) — U.S. President George Bush appealed again to Israel Sunday to stop building settlements in the occupied territories and said the United States was seeking a positive response.

He welcomed Saudi Arabia's offer to lift the Arab economic boycott of Israel in exchange for a freeze on settlement building, an offer Israel has rejected.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Israel Sunday evening on the last and toughest leg of his latest peace mission, the fifth since the Gulf war.

"I'm confident, and I hope it's not misplaced confidence, that when the secretary gets to Israel, he will find that they, like all these other countries, realise that

the time for peace is at hand," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Baker was won the backing of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan for his proposals for a Middle East peace conference. Israel has rejected them.

Asked if a freeze of settlements would help Mr. Baker's peace mission, Mr. Bush replied: "Well, we're asking that there be positive responses from all parties."

He said the United States had long opposed settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and added: "We haven't changed one bit."

"I haven't encountered anybody in this part of the world who thinks continuing settlements is a helpful thing."

Mr. Bush, on the second day of his visit to Turkey, spoke to reporters during a picture-taking session.

House condemns American initiatives, 'double standard'

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Jordan for talks with Israeli leaders Sunday afternoon, Jordan's 80-member Parliament condemned American policies in the region as well as Egypt's call to end the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

"Those who led a murderous war against an Arab country less than six months now want to stand for peace?" asked pan-Arab Deputy Hussein Mujahid. The Jerash deputy, who had voted against the government of Taher Al Masri, said that an end of the Arab economic boycott of Israel would be the last step in the "total Arab submission" to America and Zionism.

While Islamist deputies categorically rejected the U.S. peace initiative, many left-wing and pan-Arab deputies charged that the proposals had serious loopholes that would put into question the entire approach.

"Any peace proposal that does not implement all U.N. Security Council resolutions cannot be accepted," said Bassem Haddad of the nine-member Democratic Bloc, which has a member in the current government.

"The participation of the

PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people is a must. Without the participation of the PLO there can be no real peace," Mr. Haddad said.

The participation of the PLO in the peace process was called for mostly by leftist and pan-Arab deputies who agree to a negotiated peace with Israel provided all Security Council resolutions are applied and Israel withdraws from all occupied Arab territories. In sharp comparison Islamists did not mention the PLO in any of their speeches. They condemn the organisation for accepting the existence of Israel.

Unlike the PLO, Islamists say that two states cannot co-exist in Palestine and that one day, by peaceful means or war, Palestine will and must be ruled by the Palestinian Arabs and with Islam as its state religion.

In a printed statement the Islamic movement in Parliament began Sunday's session with a categorical condemnation of the Baker visit and its aims.

In an eight-point statement the 23-member Muslim Brotherhood Bloc said "no" to the Baker proposal, "no" to an end of the Arab boycott of Israel and condemned "continuing U.S. aggression and the siege of Iraq."

One of them had worked for

the Israeli, and had come to the factory with a friend, police said.

Eduard Elan, a factory owner in the industrial area of Petah Tikva, told army radio that shouts for help were heard.

"We went outside and saw our neighbour lying on a car bleeding. He told us that two Arabs, his employees from the West Bank town of Tulkarm, stabbed him and escaped," he said.

Police closed off the area to search for the assailants. Ninety minutes later the two Arabs were found hiding in a nearby junkyard and were arrested, police said.

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Eritreans seek formal Arab support for independence

ELF-UE calls for 'national conference' to work out united Eritrean strategy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordao Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Buoyed by the ouster of Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam after decades of struggle, Eritrean activists have launched a drive to secure Arab support for their campaign to carve out an independent state in the ancient land of Eritrea.

Simultaneously, they are also calling for Arab and African help to arrange a "national reconciliation conference" among Eritrean to forge a united stand in negotiations with the regime in power in Addis Ababa.

A delegation representing the Eritrean Liberation Front — United Organisation (ELF-UE) met with senior Foreign Ministry officials in Amman this week and secured the Kingdom's support in principle for an independent Eritrean state, senior ELF-UE officials said Sunday.

"We have been promised that Jordan will convey its position to the Arab League secretary-general, (Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt), when he visits Amman this week," said Omar Jaber, head of the ELF-UE's information department.

Mr. Jaber said the delegation was on a visit to various Arab countries to enlist support on the Arab level for independence for Eritrea's Arabic-speaking five million people — about 60 percent of them Muslim and the rest Christian.

Somalis agree on ceasefire, government

DJIBOUTI (R) — Six political groups from Somalia announced agreement in Djibouti Sunday on a ceasefire in their war-torn country.

They also named Ali Mahdi Mohammad, leader of the United Somali Congress (USC) which controls the capital Mogadishu, as head of an interim government for the whole country.

The six groups announced their decisions at the end of a week-long conference in Djibouti.

However, the meeting was not attended by representatives of the Somali National Movement (SNM), which has declared a separate "republic of Somaliland" in northern areas under its control.

The conference, held behind closed doors, saw delicate negotiations between the rival groups, and the final agreement was reached only after intensive manouvering, diplomats said.

The official communiqué revealed that delegates agreed to unite in forming a joint military force to flush out former President Mohammad Siad Barre and his supporters who are entrenched in southern Somalia. Mr. Siad Barre, who took power in a coup in 1969, fled from Mogadishu in January when the USC took the city.

Djibouti Foreign Minister Moumin Baddou Farah announced details of the communiqué at the closing ceremony Sunday.

He said the conference had agreed on the composition of a new interim government for Somalia. There would be two vice-presidents — one representing the Somali Democratic Movement (SDM) and the other chosen by the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) and the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM).

Egypt and Syria, in addition to Sudan — which has been maintaining very close ties with various Eritrean groups — have already expressed their support for the aspirations of the Eritreans, Mr. Jaber said. The delegation now plans to visit Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, where the ELF-UE already maintains official presence.

But "there has not been any official statement — whether on the level of the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) or the United Nations — in support of our cause although individual Arab countries have extended backing," he said.

A press statement by the ELF-UE said "several" unidentified European, African and Arab states have expressed their support although the formal position of the administration has not been made clear, Mr. Jaber said.

According to Mr. Jaber and Hassan Osman, head of the Economic Affairs Department of the ELF-UE, a formal Arab League statement endorsing Eritrean independence will go a long way in presenting a strong Eritrean case on the international level.

Mr. Jaber and Mr. Osman conceded that they had not yet reached firm agreements with other Eritrean organisations fighting for independence.

The ELF-UE press statement warned of an "Eritrean-Eritrean" conflict if such agreements were not reached. "Such a conflict," it said, "will undermine the efforts of all Eritreans."

The ELF-UE is calling for a "reconciliation" conference among the organisation to elect an "interim government-in-exile" and a parliamentary council for Eritrea so that the Eritreans can bury their differences and present a unified position in all pre-independence negotiations with Addis Ababa.

It gives special attention to Sudan in the process to bring together all Eritrean factions under one umbrella.

At the same time, Mr. Jaber said, world support for their cause is important for the Eritreans ahead of any adverse decision by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which dominates the interim government in Addis Ababa after Colonel Mengistu was toppled in May under a concerted military campaign supported by the various Ethiopian liberation groups and Eritrean organisations.

By the time Col. Mengistu fled Addis Ababa, the Eritrean groups had wrested control of almost all territory where they want to set up an independent state.

"Now we are in complete control of all Eritrean territory after all Ethiopian soldiers fled Eritrea when Mengistu was toppled," another ELF-UE official said. "We have been promised that Jordan will convey its position to the Arab League secretary-general, (Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt), when he visits Amman this week," said Omar Jaber, head of the ELF-UE's information department.

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U.N. EVENT: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal Sunday attends a ceremony held by the United Nations Population Fund in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at Haya Arts Centre. The ceremony included speeches by UNESCO's Acting Regional Director Ghazi Abu Shama and the assistant of UNFPA's programme director as well as painting exhibitions and a play. Princess Alia distributed awards to children who won painting and story writing competitions.

Jordanian postal system channelling Iraqi mail

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An overland system is channelling mail to and from Iraq through Jordan, and the Jordanian postal services are handling Iraqi mail shipments on a weekly basis, rendering a much-needed service for the people of Iraq who remain under an international air embargo.

"The system started functioning in nearly June and now we are processing incoming and outgoing mail on a weekly basis," said Dr. Abdullah Jazi, head of the Post Offices and Postal Savings Corporation. "The system is working very well."

Jordanian postal trucks collect Iraq-bound mail carried aboard Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights to Amman airport and ferry them overland to Baghdad. On their return leg, the trucks bring in mail bearing Iraqi postal stamps to a central collecting centre in Amman and Jordanian postal employees process the shipments and channel them to outgoing RJ flights, Dr. Jazi told the Jordan Times.

The present arrangement does not include surface mail of heavy airmail packages originating in Iraq.

According to Iraqis visiting Jordan, the Iraqi side of the system is limited to residents of Baghdad and major towns like Mosul and Kirkuk and cities in western Iraq on a weekly basis.

"Most residents of the south are not even aware that postal services have been resumed after the (Gulf) war," which ended in early March, said an Iraqi businessman.

According to sources in the

expatriate community in Iraq, the postal system has yet to take full effect because it was only launched eight or nine weeks ago.

"In view of the scarce availability of telecommunication lines, most of Iraqi government business is also done through mail," said a diplomat based in Baghdad.

Jordan, which represents the main lifeline for Iraq, also serves as the transit point for diplomatic bags from missions which have reopened in the Iraqi capital. Vehicles carrying Jordanian diplomatic license plates are a constant sight on the main Amman-Baghdad highway.

Dr. Jazi said the Jordanian postal system will continue to handle mail for Iraq until Iraqi Airways resume operations in and out of Baghdad. Iraqi Airways maintained a daily Baghdad-Amman-Baghdad flight until the evening of Jan. 16 despite the air embargo imposed on Iraq by the Security Council.

One of the first targets of the allies in the war, which started in the early hours of Jan. 17, was Baghdad International Airport, which was repeatedly hit in devastating air attacks.

The airport has now been repaired and is capable of handling a limited number of incoming and outgoing flights, aviation sources said.

The Iraqi national carrier has sought U.N. Security Council approval to resume "Amman-Baghdad-Amman flights" as the application remains somewhere in the labyrinth of the controversy surrounding Iraq's compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms," said a diplomatic source.

Restoration of Temple of Hercules to begin

By Maha Atallah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR), in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), are working on reconstructing the Temple of Hercules overlooking the Roman Amphitheatre on Jabal Al Qal'a in a way that will change the skyline in the area.

The preliminary plan for the reconstruction was proposed Saturday in a presentation at ACOR by Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, an archaeologist and architect who, along with archaeologist Alex Papanikolaou, worked on the reconstruction and preservation of the Acropolis in Athens and who will now supervise the reconstruction of the Temple of Hercules.

The Temple, most of which was destroyed, dates back to the first Century AD. The reconstruction plan is to restore four of the Temple columns as the maximum possible reconstruction using a minimal amount of new material.

USAID is funding the project by providing \$600,000. But even with a budget increase only four columns can be reconstructed as defined by the proposed plan.

Members of concerned organisations had varied opinions regarding the proposed plan and said that this project will provide a much needed tourist attraction in Amman.

Nasri Atallah, the director

general of the Ministry of Tourism, said that the reconstruction of this Temple is very important for Jordan, especially because it will become a major tourist site in the Amman region.

"Before the Gulf war, tourism provided over \$500 million in income," Mr. Atallah said. "Many of the tourists who visited Jordan went to the south of Jordan to Aqaba and Petra."

Now that tourism is starting again, the Ministry of Tourism aims to inform tourists of sites in Amman.

"The restoration of the Temple of Hercules is one such, (site) and it is the type of place tourists would be interested in," he said.

In previous news reports Mr. Atallah said that the reasoning behind the new plan to attract tourists to Amman is that accommodations are always plentiful while in peak seasons accommodations become scarce in Petra and Aqaba because most tourists flock there.

The director of the Department of Antiquities, Dr. Saifan Tell, said that the reconstruction plan is a step in the right direction.

"This is the type of project that we need in Jordan. This is what goes to preserve the heritage in Jordan," Mr. Tell said.

According to Mr. Kanellopoulos, the assessment of work necessary for the reconstruction project has already been completed.

"Now, the actual restoration should begin," he said. "This is expected to take 30 months."

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Iraqi artists Batoul Al Fukeiki, Ibrahim Al Abdali and Abdul Jabbar Salman at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Traditional embroidery exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Nidal Jamous and Ahmad Hamedan at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of photos depicting the Palestinian people's suffering under Israeli occupation at Yarmouk University.

Jordan's position in Gulf war explained to American visitors

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat has told a team of visiting American academics that Jordan's position during the Gulf crisis was misunderstood and misinterpreted in the West and urged the team members to relay to the American people the facts about the situation in the wake of the Gulf war.

The team, whose members are on a tour of the region on a fact-finding mission, was briefed by Dr. Arabiyat about the situation in the Gulf and Jordan's

position towards the Gulf crisis.

Jordan has continuously sought to find an Arab peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis within the context of the Arab League so that the region would not experience any wars and bloodshed, Dr. Arabiyat said.

Jordan's position was not understood and the Kingdom had no chance to present its views and plans for a peaceful settlement to the crisis, Dr. Arabiyat said.

The House speaker briefed the visitors on the economic situation in Jordan and the enormous assistance the Kingdom offered

to the Palestinian refugees who have been displaced since 1948 and following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

He also spoke in detail about the difficulties which the Kingdom continues to face as a result of the embargo on Iraq despite the end of Gulf war. Jordan, Dr. Arabiyat said, was neutral during the Gulf crisis and the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman was operating as normal during the Gulf war.

He requested that the team relay Jordan's views to the American public.

Seminar to discuss data analysis of fertility and mortality rates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Sunday opened a two-day training seminar on the use of computers in data analysis concerning fertility and mortality rates in Jordan.

The National Population Committee, he said, aims at enabling the country to achieve success in planning for development schemes focusing on the human element which constitutes the focal point in development.

UNDP resident representative in Jordan Dr. Ali Attiqi addressed the session, noting that the United Nations was financing this seminar in order to help boost the National Population Committee's technical capabilities and to help proper involvement of human resources to socio-economic development.

Dr. Attiqi said that the seminar would help Jordan lay the foundation for a data base on prospects in human resources development and population growth between 1990 and the year 2005.

According to Dr. Attiqi, the mortality rate in Jordan declined as a result of an improvement in the standard of health services and a rise in the average income of Jordanian citizens. He said that the increase in population in Jordan now stands at the rate of 4.7 per cent.

Preparations for journalism symposium begin

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) has made initial preparations for a three day symposium to open in Amman in September to discuss the role of journalists during wartime.

A JPA statement said that the symposium, which will be held in Amman in cooperation with the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ), is to review several working papers dealing with the role of journalists, their experiences when covering armed conflicts and wars with special attention to the occupied Arab territories, and the lessons of the Gulf war.

The symposium, to be held under the title "Objectivity and

development fields. Proper analysis of data would help policy makers to be in a better position to help the country achieve a balance between human and material resources, said the minister.

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The symposium, to be held under the title "Objectivity and

the Role of Journalists" seeks to focus attention on journalists and the difficulties they encounter during disputes and in working under severe conditions, the JPA said.

It said that the papers focus attention on the problems journalists encounter during missions and obstacles various governments impose on journalists while they carry out their duty.

Representatives of the Prague-based IOJ and journalists from Arab and foreign countries as well as reporters who took part in covering the Gulf war will take part in the symposium, according to the JPA statement.

Agreement was reached on this symposium following talks in

Amman between two IOJ members and JPA President Hashem Khreisat and association board members.

At least 250 journalists were deliberately killed while working in a number of countries over the past two years, according to the IOJ team that concluded its visit to Amman last week.

The team discussed with Mr. Khreisat several matters related to reporters' work and the general conditions of journalists in the occupied Arab territories.

The JPA board had set up a five member committee to make arrangements for the upcoming symposium, the first of its kind to discuss such issues of concern to journalists around the world.

7 people die during weekend

AMMAN (J.T.) — Six members of a family were killed in a road accident which occurred on the radio station transmission Bayutay road southwest of here Saturday.

A report in the local press said that the casualties were in a small car used for training new drivers which was hit by two private cars moving in the opposite direction.

In another report, the local press said that 12 citizens were injured in two road accidents.

A report in Al Dustour daily said that a 40-year-old man living in Nazal District shot and killed a 20-year-old man who had entered the garden of his house late Saturday.

The report said that the man had spotted four men entering the garden requesting some flowers. A quarrel between the house owner and the victim ensued with the victim producing a switch knife and threatening to attack the owner of the house, who went inside and later came out with a gun with which he killed the victim.

Following the tour, Mr. Khali-

King praised for efforts to achieve Arab unity

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Dr. Hamed Al Gabid, who arrived in Amman Sunday on a two-day visit, lauded His Majesty King Hussein's efforts on the Arab and international levels to find solutions to problems plaguing the Arab and Islamic nations.

Dr. Gabid, at a meeting with Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al Lawzi, said that the King was exerting efforts towards ending hostile propaganda campaigns among OIC members, thus opening the way for the organisation to find proper solutions for them.

Issues related to the Gulf crisis and other matters of concern to Arab and Islamic countries, including the Palestine question, were discussed at the meeting.

Dr. Gabid also met with Abdul Latif Arabiyat, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, for similar discussions. Dr. Arabiyat expressed hope that the OIC secretary general will use his office to bring the Arab and Islamic countries closer together.

Dr. Gabid told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, upon arrival here that his visit was part of a tour of a number of OIC members to help re-establish solidarity among Islamic nations in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

His talks with Jordanian offi-

cials, he said, would also focus on arrangements for OIC's 20th Ministerial Conference to be held in Istanbul on Aug. 3 and preparations for an OIC summit due to be held in Senegal.

The OIC foreign ministers meeting in Istanbul will discuss basic economic and social issues of concern to OIC member countries like the Gulf situation, the Palestine problem and Muslim minorities in Asian and African countries as well as economic difficulties facing the less developed Islamic countries.

Asked to comment on the

Jordanian national environment strategy to be unveiled next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work on a Jordanian national environment strategy will be completed and presented in its final version in the coming month, according to an announcement by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi.

The strategy has been prepared in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and with financial help from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The minister spoke about the strategy and Jordan's experiences in environmental issues and means of combating pollution at a meeting in his office with Sirel Khiteem Khalifa, an advisor to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) who is currently on a tour of Arab states to discuss environmental issues.

Mr. Zoubi briefed the UNEP official on his ministry's cooperation with other government and private institutions in the course of protecting the environment in Jordan.

Jordan's cooperation with UNEP and IUCN in matters related to the protection of the environment and the preparation of the national strategy were discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Zoubi last month said that the IUCN was taking an active role in the preparation of the national strategy for the Kingdom to help it protect the environment and to initiate projects for the achievement of that goal.

He made the announcement during a visit here by an IUCN representative who discussed steps to be taken in the formation and the implementation of the projected strategy.

Protection of the environment, the minister said, was one of the directives contained in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to the new government last month.

In 1989, USAID pledged to provide the ministry with \$383,000 to help finance the project for which the government has allocated JD 69,000.

Mr. Khalifa told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he was visiting Jordan according to the directives of UNEP in the course of his tour which will also take him to Syria, Yemen and Bahrain.

He will discuss matters related to environmental education, which entails the introduction of subjects in the school curricula aimed at teaching children ways to help protect the environment.

Following the tour, Mr. Khalifa

Summer camp for hearing impaired children opened

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development, Sunday opened the first summer camp for

hearing-impaired children the chance to meet, make friends and tour archaeological and tourist sites.

The handicapped children gathered at the camp near Karak will be taken on tours of the potash and phosphate mines.

Muta University and other places of interest and will be allowed to carry out activities related to community service in the Karak region.

The camp, whose activities will last six days, was organised in cooperation with local special education centres. Participating handicapped children came from

THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER ADVERTISEMENT FOR ISSUE OF TENDERS FOR TAIZ-ADEN POWER LINK PROJECT

As the Government of the Republic of Yemen has obtained a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for Financing of Taiz-Aden Power Link Project.

Yemen General Electricity Corporation and Public Corporation of Electric Power in the Republic of Yemen

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجريدة العربية الوحيدة الصادرة باللغة الإنجليزية في الأردن.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

No more a hypothesis

IN DESCRIBING his mission and talks in the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said yesterday that his efforts were meant to "craft a process for peace in the region." Indeed, as His Majesty King Hussein said, the Middle East problem is "a serious and chronic" one that requires all the efforts and craftsmanship of all men of goodwill — American, Arab and Israeli.

Since his first mission in March, Mr. Baker has called on both Arabs and Israelis to show willingness for peace and to take confidence-building measures that would enhance and bolster the search for peace. It has become a well-known fact by now that the Arab side has shown all the goodwill required to push the peace process ahead. The latest gesture has been Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's call for an end to the Arab boycott of Israel in exchange for an Israeli freeze on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

So far, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan have said they supported Egypt's proposal; Israel rejected it outright. This, of course, is not the most important, nor least, confidence-building measure the Arabs have taken. Syria has dropped its insistence on full United Nations participation and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is no longer insisting on separate Palestinian participation in the peace conference. Furthermore, Syria, through its influence in Lebanon and by the use of the Lebanese army, is seeking to pacify the front with Israel on the border with Lebanon.

Also, Saudi Arabia and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to attend the conference despite the fact that they do not share borders with Israel. All these concessions on behalf of the Arabs and we have yet to see Israel making any commitment, even if only verbal. On the contrary, everytime the Arabs make a gesture, the Jewish state toughens its stand. All indications, therefore, point to one stark fact: Israel does not want peace. It does not want to exchange land for peace or negotiate with the Arabs on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. That is why we feel the Israeli leadership, the Likud, is determined to sabotage the American effort. Instead of easing settlement building, described by the U.S. as the main obstacle to peace, it has stepped up their building. Contrary to what Secretary Baker intends, to convene a conference immediately — preferably before autumn when American presidential election campaigns begin — the Israelis seem adamant to use whatever delay tactics they can muster in order to render American efforts useless by the beginning of 1992. If this is the truth, and Secretary Baker is certainly the best judge of this, then it is not "hypothetical" for the Arabs to ask: What would the Americans do? If the Americans were able to get the Arabs to give concessions, are they willing to put some pressure on the Israelis to reciprocate?

We know that Mr. Baker's task is a formidable one. We do appreciate his efforts, willingness and sincerity. Hoping that he would find some opening in Israeli intransigence, we wish him the best of luck.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's daily Sunday expressed astonishment and dismay at renewed threats for the use of force against Iraq and said that such threats like those coming from U.S. Gen. Colin Powell are not justified at all. The paper pointed to the fact that Iraq has satisfied the U.N. inspection teams and has been fully complying with the U.N. resolutions, thus offering no chance for any aggression by any party. Furthermore Powell's threats coincide with a tour by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker designed to settle the Middle East conflict peacefully, the paper noted. As Mr. Baker calls for settling the Arab-Israeli problem by peaceful means and negotiations, Gen. Powell issues threats to Iraq which has complied fully with the U.N. Security Council orders, unlike Israel which continues to occupy Arab territories and reject all U.N. resolutions, the paper continued. In the midst of Mr. Baker's current moves for peace, it is really feared that the Americans are preparing for yet another aggression on Iraq, a move which can only poison the atmosphere for the U.S. secretary of state and render his mission a total failure, the paper said. On the other hand if Gen. Powell's threats were meant to intimidate the Arabs into accepting Mr. Baker's dictates, such tactics can by no means serve their purpose either, the paper stressed. The paper said that the time has come for the Western nations in general and the US in particular to stop issuing threats against Baghdad and realize that peace and international legitimacy cannot be divided neither can the destruction of Iraq bring about peace to the region.

Al Dostor daily welcomed US Secretary of State James Baker in Jordan and said that everybody wishes him success in his mission so that peace can be achieved. The paper noted however, that the U.S. secretary would bear from Amman the same firm stand the Kingdom has adopted all along, namely: a peace conference to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions to achieve the aspired peace. Mr. Baker will hear from Amman and the other Arab capitals a positive response to ideas put forth by President Bush who called in a speech last March for the implementation of Security Council resolutions to achieve peace in the Middle East area, the paper noted. It should be pointed out, the paper said, that it is Israel which continues to block any move towards peace by totally rejecting the idea of a conference and the implementation of UN resolutions. Furthermore, the Israeli Jewish settlement and expansionist programme which is now under way, is bound to complicate matters further and make the aspired peace beyond reach, the paper added. By responding favourably to the U.N. resolutions, the Arabs are showing flexibility and willingness to attain peace and by putting the cards on the table and accepting to sit with the Israelis to discuss peace on the basis of U.N. resolutions, the Arabs have thus put the ball right into the Middle of the US-Israeli court, the paper said. For this reason, said the paper, Jordan and the Arab states sincerely wish that Mr. Baker will overcome the Israeli intransigence and crown his mission with success.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Whatever happened to Arab nationalism?

ALTHOUGH several long months have elapsed since the formal ending of the Gulf crisis, inter-Arab relations are still no where near the beginning of the end of their conflicts and suspicions. One would have thought that on the strength of the long-held traditional formula of Arab nationalism and Arab brotherhood, the Arab capitals would have started a long time ago the reestablishment of Arab coordination and cooperation on at least the issues that matter most to the overall Arab cause. Yet what we have now in place in the Arab World is the exact opposite inspite of all protestations to the contrary. There are several explanations for this dismal inter-Arab state of affairs.

To begin with the Gulf war caused deeper conflicts and disputes within the Arab World than thought possible at the beginning. The wounds inflicted by the occupation of Kuwait and the war that ensued contributed to deeper drifts between the Arabs. Unlike the past when Arabs would readily heal their wounds and pick up where they had left off, this time around the Arabs are moving rather too cautiously and without undue hesitation in the direction of restoring the Arab order to its pre-war stand.

Secondly, some of the Arab states, especially the rich ones in the Gulf, are rather reluctant to go back to the "good old days" for fear that would mean the resumption of their lavish aid to the poorer Arab countries. As long as inter-Arab relations are kept on hold so would be the return to the times when millions of Gulf money were dished out to the lesser endowed Arab states. Not that the Gulf Arab states were totally convinced of this generous policy on their part. "Takhgil" had more to do with promoting Arab material support to the recipient Arab countries than anything else. With the benefit of a good cause to be angry and upset, the Arab oil governments are exploiting this situation to interrupt the flow of their oil money to the poorer Arab states for

as long as possible. So why hurry and resume brotherly relations when that would necessarily mean the obligation to start again the support for the majority of the Arab states.

A third possible explanation could yet be offered to elucidate the reasons behind the very slow and timid efforts to restore the normal relations among the Arab countries. All along the Arab peoples were deceiving themselves into believing that there is but one Arab nation bound together by the strong forces of Arab nationalism. Many of the Arab peoples were brought up to believe that the current Arab state of affairs where there are some twenty Arab states scattered across North Africa, the Middle East and the Gulf region is really an aberration. Many Arab nationalist continued to entertain the conviction that the existing Arab states are not permanent features but rather provinces soon to be united together by the cohesive forces of Arabism. For many decades the Arab peoples held on to this belief thinking, or rather praying, that the abnormality that persisted in the Arab World would end sooner or later. Many efforts were made to unite the Arab states, but with the exception of the unity forged between the two Yemeni states, none of the other Arab efforts came to full fruition. Slowly but surely the Arab countries became full-fledged sovereign states which guarded their independence more than they have defended Arab causes.

In more than one way, the present Arab states resemble the Latin American states in South America. To be sure the Arab states, as their counterparts in Latin America, share a common language, religions and traditions. Yet somehow all such common denominators never succeeded in bridging the gaps between them. What exacerbates this situation in the Arab World is that the gaps between the different Arab countries are rather on the

increase than on the decrease. Very soon the Arab peoples would simply look back to their once held dreams of Arab nationalism with nostalgia, nothing more.

What better demonstration of this Arab disarray than the way Iraq's nuclear programme was left for destruction by the West on behalf of Israel. It is one thing to blame Baghdad for occupying Kuwait and for bringing on to itself destruction and death and quite another to desert its nuclear programme which in the final analysis is an Arab nuclear programme. The least that the Arab side could have done is to face the facts of determined efforts to neutralise the Arabs' only nuclear capability is to call for the dismantling also of Tel Aviv's decades-long nuclear and thermo-nuclear capabilities. Surely no one in his right mind would like to see the Middle East region go nuclear given the uncertainties and instability of the area. But to leave the Arab peoples at the mercy of Israel's proven nuclear prowess is something bordering on suicide.

The truth of the matter, therefore, is that there is no longer an Arab World as such but rather a variety of Arab sovereign states which guard jealously their independence and self-interests more than anything else. So why pretend that there is still Arab nationalism and prospects for Arab unity when the facts reveal the opposite? Even if one wishes to think in terms of EC-styled Arab unity, that also is not in the cards because the Arab states' degree of development and sophistication are not near the stage that would facilitate such a contemporary form of unity. Accordingly, while the Arabs fail to realise their aspired-for nationality and unity, the least they can do under the circumstances is forge some sort of a front in order to protect their minimum collective interests.

International role for Hungary's Muslim leader

By Gilles Malaise

BUDAPEST, Hungary — The thirty-ish looking man in a business suit who offered a warm handshake in the elegant lobby of the Hotel Forum looked more like a merchant banker than a cleric. But Dr. Abdul Rahman Mihalffy, born into a Hungarian family, is now president of the Hungarian Islamic Society and the religious leader of Hungary's Muslim community. Witness to the appeal of Islam for a growing number of Europeans, he may also help his country's economic reconstruction by forging new economic and cultural ties to the Muslim world.

Question: Dr. Mihalffy, like most of the adherents to Islam here, you have got 100 per cent Hungarian ancestry. Isn't it difficult to be Muslim while being Hungarian and a citizen of a former communist country located in the heart of central Europe?

Answer: May I start with history, to make you understand that Islam isn't a new religion here. Islam, with its tribes, came to Hungary 1,000 years ago. Just like other tribes that contributed to populate the territory, they came from Asia. Some of the newcomers were from the Shiraz area, in Iran. In the 11th century there were tribes that mixed with others coming from the northern part of Africa. These Suri and Shiite tribes went together to Hungary and established Islam in central Europe.

Q: So Islam didn't come with the Turkish invasion in the 16th century?

A: Of course not. The Ottoman influence began four centuries after the episode that I mentioned. The Hungarian tribes came sooner, in 846. They established very strong Muslim communities, which served the Hungarian kings as tax collectors and coin makers. In our National Museum, in Budapest, you can see some of these coins, with the word "Allah" engraved. These tribes were generally known as "Boszormeny," which phonetically sounds like, and means, "Mussulman" or Muslim. You can still find some "Boszormeny" streets in Hungary.

Q: Did the Turkish invasion of Hungary in 1526 bring something new to Islamic communities?

A: Let's go back to the beginning of this century, when Emperor Franz Joseph annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina (in 1908). As a lot of Muslims were living in this area and were to be included in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Parliament of Budapest recognised the Islamic faith in 1917. The communists forgot to abolish this law, and we used it to gain recognition.

Q: How do you see your role?

A: We are trying to be spokesmen for our religion — not a state, not an interest. Being Hungarian, we can be regarded as a minority, of course, in the Islamic world, which represents one billion people. But the Arab World, as part of the Islamic world, represents only 140 million people. It is a minority, too, among non-Arab Muslims. So,

A: I believe that the most important fact in our history wasn't the Turkish settlement but the moment when Austria expelled them in 1586. At the same time, they expelled all Muslim influence. After this period came two centuries without Islam. Some traces of Muslim and Turkish communities remained, but they were insignificant.

Q: What about the situation today? In view of the communist policies of outlawing religions, the society must be quite new?

A: We now have 200 families of Hungarian Muslims. They are registered in our Hungarian Islamic Society ... When we decided to form an association in the 1980s, religious groups (whether Muslim, Christian or Jewish) were not accepted. I won't say they were forbidden, because the government's policies had softened a bit. They had realised that they had to change policies as a matter of survival: they had to establish closer links with the people, partly through religion; this is why our society was recognised in 1988.

Q: Are the members descendants of the original Islamic community?

A: Today the majority of our people have converted to Islam.

Q: How did you manage to be recognised officially by the former government? With no deep-rooted Muslim community in the country, it must have been difficult to prove that Islam existed here.

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As leader of Hungary's Islamic community, Dr. Abdul Rahman Mihalffy is hoping to help the new democratic government forge ties with the Muslim world (WNL photo).

with our 200 families, in a way we are part of the majority.

Q: When you say 200 families, how many people does that make?

A: I estimate between 1,000 and 3,000 Muslims. It is quite difficult to get accurate statistics, many Muslims answering questions regarding their religion say that they are Catholic, because it is the first religion here. Jews will give the same answer. We know very well that many Islamic-rooted families are still living in an area located in southern Hungary and called Kunsag, which comes from the name of Kuns Muslim invaders. They came here many times before the Turks, like all the tribes. So if we analyse the origin of families from regions just like Kunsag, we could find thousands of people with Muslim roots.

Q: Can you still trace the origin

of the names?

A: Of course. You will find people with family names like Tehereni (from Tehran), Szulani, Solomani, Vilate (from Vilnia), and villages called Medina.

Q: And what about your name?

A: Abdul Rahman Mihalffy is my name as a convert, as a sheikh. My family name is Mihalffy and my Christian name is Balazs ... I was born a Christian. I never thought I would turn to Islam. For five years, while attending university in Hungary, I shared a dormitory room with a Sudanese. For the five years he spoke to me only in Arabic. After three years I could write, read and take an exam in Arabic. He wasn't a Muslim, but when I asked him what was the best book in his language, he answered, the Koran. And I decided to translate it (into Hungarian). During the

Q: Then your role in both religious and political?

A: "We Muslims have our own interests. But as Hungarians we also have to serve our national interests. But these two interests don't have to interfere with each other. I think there is no problem with being a spokesman for religious and political affairs. In case there was a conflict between the two, I would drop the political side. I consider myself more a religious man than a politician.

Q: What about funding for your group? Do you receive foreign aid?

A: In the last four years, we have not accepted any foreign aid to our group, but I am encouraging Arab nations to invest in companies here that would allow Hungarian Muslims and non-Muslims to work together. To put our society in the position of intermediary in economic relations between Islamic countries and Hungary would strengthen our country's political position in the middle of Europe ... We have

40-year boycott meant to pressure Israeli economy

FOR 40 years the Arab World has been trying, with only limited success, to apply economic pressure on Israel.

According to an announcement in Saudi Arabia, the wealthiest country in the 22-member Arab League, the boycott would be lifted in exchange for an Israeli commitment to stop Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Even before the offer was made, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens rejected any such tradeoff, saying: "A country cannot give up, even temporarily, on its fundamental rights."

For Israel, the move would be less an economic boon than a symbolic gesture signifying a lessening of Arab hostility. Israel has managed to chip away at the boycott to some degree over the years, and made adjustments to compensate for lost trade.

Hundreds of companies worldwide have eschewed millions of

dollars in trade with Israel. But the boycott has been most harmful to U.S. firms, costing them millions of dollars in Arab business since U.S. law forbids them to reject trade with Israel.

Japanese firms, according to Jewish organisations that track the black lists, are the most compliant with the boycott, partly because Japan relies heavily on oil from the Middle East and partly because Arab markets are more lucrative than the small Israeli one.

Such giants as Toyota, Nissan and Toshiba are among those abstaining from trade with Israel, according to a recent report by the World Jewish Congress (WJC).

The WJC and other Jewish groups have mounted an intense lobbying effort with Japan to reverse the longstanding boycott adherence. The ultimate goal of this effort is to abolish the boycott so that Israelis and Arabs can trade with Israel.

The United States passed a law in 1976 banning compliance with the boycott. U.S. firms caught abiding by the boycott are subjected to heavy fines.

The boycott offices in Damascus keep close tabs on companies doing business with Israel and have about 300 U.S. companies on their list — which is not publicly available.

Among them are AT & T, Avis, Bell Telephone Labs, Continental Grain, Hughes Aircraft, Mattel Inc., and Paramount Picture Corporation, according to Jewish groups.

Blacklisted firms are banned from operations and sales in the Arab World, although some countries are stricter in their enforcement than others. For example, even though Coca Cola was officially blacklisted for 20 years, Oman and Bahrain allowed bottling plants to open two years before the firm was officially removed from the boycott lists last May.

But at the same time that it announced the lifting of the Coca Cola boycott, the Arab League slapped sanctions on companies owned by British publishing ty-

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Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

again, saying that it was a hypothetical question.

However, it is my hope that we could see the convening of this conference within a reasonable period of time," Mr. Baker said. "It would be preferable, of course, if we could see that upon the acceptance of the important parties."

Mr. Baker explained that the purpose of the proposed conference will be "to launch direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and Palestinians on the one hand and Israel and her Arab neighbours on the other."

"So the willingness of countries to attend the conference clearly connotes a willingness to amend on the basis that it has been outlined in the American proposals," the American stated.

The King, who expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with Secretary Baker, said that peace in the region was "now closer than we have ever been."

On Palestinian participation in the conference, the King said that Jordan was in contact with the Palestinians to study the possibility of having a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation take part in the proposed conference.

"We are in touch with the Palestinians, our brethren, to look at the possibility of what we have suggested—the umbrella of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. And I hope that we will see some progress along that track too," King Hussein said.

Asked whether Palestinians from outside the occupied territories would also take part in the negotiations, the King said: "I think you will find that there are Palestinians outside the (occupied) territories in the government of Jordan, in Jordan itself. What we are talking about is a solution... and obviously I think that the efforts have been so far concentrated on how to try to deal with the plight of people in the occupied territories."

"I hope somehow that when we seek a comprehensive solution, it will eventually cover all aspects of the problem," he added.

Both the King and Mr. Baker described their talks as "frank, open and productive."

King Hussein said Middle East conflict "is of mutual concern to the U.S., to ourselves and to all in this region."

"We feel much change in the recent past, and I believe that with every visit that Secretary Baker has made to this region, we have seen the will of the world—the people of good will—move forward hopefully towards the fulfilment of a dream and the realisation of a dream and hopes that have been with us for years and years of a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli, the Arab-Israeli problem. So right now, the visit has come at a time when we have seen progress here in the region and in the world," the King said.

He added that Jordan was always committed to peace, and with the developments regarding the attitudes of many Arab states "do not exclude us but put us among the first, I hope we see progress."

Mr. Baker, apparently referring to Syria's recent acceptance of the peace conference proposal agreed that the attitude of attitude from some Arab countries, is "very heartening to us."

"We hope that that will generate even further movement," Mr. Baker commented.

King Hussein highlighted the ramifications of the problems in the Middle East, saying that the problem was "bigger than Jordan, bigger than Palestine, bigger than Israel, bigger than Syria. It is a regional problem, it is a world problem."

He added: "And we are seeking a comprehensive solution I believe that is the position of the U.S., in terms of the president and the administration, and the world wants a solution to this problem... to continue to work resolving it. So there is a lot of work being done and we are making progress."

The King described as ridiculous a reporter's question whether Jordan was prepared for direct bilateral talks with Israel.

"What do we attend the conference to do? To make faces at each other? Or to discuss how to resolve the problem?" the King asked.

Civil war

Jordan Times Staff reporter Mariam M. Shahin has just returned from a visit to Iraq. In the first of three articles she describes the state of things in the south of Iraq.

BASRA — In 50 degrees of heat and a constantly raging wind and dust, this port city, once known for its vibrant commercial activity and night life, lies on the verge of death from exhaustion.

The physical effects of an eight-year war with Iran, allied bombings during the war and what amounted to civil war afterwards have all left the city with around 60 per cent of the population it had in 1979.

At first sight it is also clear that the government in Baghdad has been guilty of not according the country's second largest city its due. Assistance has not been forthcoming in any way proportional to the city's needs, as is evident by the poor condition it is in.

But it was the allied bombings that have done the most damage to the city's ability to serve itself. While many communication, electricity and industrial sites in Basra were downed by the allies, bridges and many residential areas were also hit.

The salty water that flows out of the few taps that still work cannot be desalinated because the desalination plant has been destroyed.

Bombed residential areas, proportionately greater in number than Baghdad's, were evidently not "surgically" destroyed. Instead, entire neighbourhoods have caved in roofs.

The number of casualties is not known and there seems to be no-one interested in estimating the damage or the number of victims.

At the height of the economic blockade, Basrans received relatively little help from supply stations in the central provinces and had to survive off their own agricultural produce. Much of what was needed in imports was being supplied through Iran, residents say.

One local employee of the government, who is evidently critical of several of the policies still being carried out, explained the relationship between Basra and the Iranians.

"We did not want the war with Iran but we fought it because we are Iraqis. We fought and suffered more than the rest of Iraq. Some who would not fight for personal and religious reasons fled to Iran at the time. These same people made sure that we received much needed supplies during the economic sanction period from August to January," says Hassan, who requested that his last name not be used.

"Many of the young men from Basra who make up the lower ranks of the army died while retreating from Kuwait and many of those who came back were injured. They came back to a destroyed city and yet another defeat for Basra. Encouraged by the Islamic opposition in Iran, the revolt against Baghdad began," Hassan says.

Civil war

According to Hassan, the

resentment among the lower classes in Basra had been smoldering for over a decade and he believes the three-week civil war that raged in March could have been avoided had Baghdad shared its wealth more equally with the southern provinces.

"It is not an issue of Shiite versus Sunni; it is a class struggle between the centre and the south, he says insistently. Though the number of dead in Basra is still unknown, bullet holes in many parts of the city, particularly in the poorer areas, attest to the intensity of the fighting that followed the war.

Not only were bastions of the local government and the Baath Party destroyed by the rebels, but many commercial centres were looted and burned as well. While a certain percentage of the destruction certainly occurred during the crossfire between government forces and the rebels, the rebels seem to be responsible for a fair share of the damage.

The burnt-out Koran school in the poor Husseini district was a major headquarters for the rebels. The women who hover in the district, dressed in the exclusive black abayas worn by all women in southern Iraq, say they fled to the countryside during the fighting.

"The destroyers came from Iran. Our sons would never do this, our sons are martyrs, our sons are nationalists, our sons are heroes," shouted one woman when asked who was responsible for the damage.

While the young and old men of Basra have certainly fallen martyrs in one of the many battles fought during the last ten years, their "martyrdom" is questioned by some those who remained in Basra during the disturbances say the local boys became vandals during the revolt. Both Hassan and George, a Christian businessman who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, say that the local boys returning from the war front were responsible for much of the destruction and in particular for the looting that spread through Basra like wildfire in the beginning of March.

"We were so scared. I only got out of the house to get some food, we were living in fear," says George.

"They did here what they did in Kuwait. They broke into stores and homes to loot and destroy," he says.

Hassan is quick to explain why the returning soldiers and a proportionate number of young men who joined the rebels in Basra and did the looting and the damage.

"Their lives were meaningless. They were thrown on the war front again and again. They came home to find their families and city increasingly poor and miserable. They were too poor to marry and had little to live on but not enough to die either. They became savages, it was the natural conclusion to such a state of

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Lewis blazes to victory in 100m

NEW YORK (AP) — A patient Carl Lewis blazed to an impressive victory in the men's 100 metres and flamboyant Sandra Farmer-Patrick continued her domination of the women's 400-metre hurdles Saturday in the New York Games at Columbia University's steamy Wien Sta-

Meanwhile, Tony Dees upset Eg Foster in the men's 110-metre hurdles and Mary Slaney finished a badly beaten fifth in the women's 800 metres, won by Maria Mutola, a high school student from Mozambique.

Lewis, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and former world record-holder, waited through three false starts — one each by Eric McRae and Cubans Andres Monzon and Jorge Luis Aguilera — and his own customary slow start before charging into the lead after about 40 metres.

He finished in a meet-record 10.02 seconds, leading a 1-2-3 sweep for the Santa Monica Track Club. Mike Marsh was second in 10.17 and Mark Witherspoon third in 10.21.

McRae, who had set the meet record of 10.21 in 1989, was last in the eight-man field Saturday in 10.66.

"Today I felt like me again," said Lewis, who looked much sharper than he did at the Athletic Congress. "All U.S. National Championships last month at New York. "I was prepared more technically than at TAC."

Farmer-Patrick, who set the

American record of 53.37 in this meet in 1989, ran another strong race, clocking 53.77. It was the seventh time she has broken 54 seconds.

Farmer-Patrick, wearing a flowing, red chiffon skirt over her regular racing uniform, and Kim Batten, the U.S. champion, were even coming off the eighth bur-

den. Then, the stronger and more experienced Farmer-Patrick took control and went on to win by about 14 metres, avenging her loss to Batten in last month's National Championships in New York.

"I'm trying to add a little femininity — we need some excitement in track and field," Farmer-Patrick said of her outfit.

Batten finished second Saturday in 55.06.

The air temperature at the start of the meet was 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 Celsius) — it later reached 97 F (36 C) — with the field temperature at 120 F (49 C).

Dees, who failed to make the U.S. team for the World Championships, beat all three members of the team in the 110 hurdles.

The start of the race was mar-

ked by five false starts, but when it finally began, Dees was ready. He surged to the front immediately and led all the way in winning in 13.18, his personal best. The time made him the third-fastest performer in the world this year, behind Britain's Colin Jackson (13.09) and Foster (13.10).

Foster, obviously irked by the rash of false starts, got off slowly and his late-race surge fell short.

Foster, the U.S. champion, finished second in 13.26.

Mutola, 18, entering her senior year at Springfield High School, used a powerful kick to win the 800 in 2 minutes, 0.22 seconds.

Slaney, competing in her first 800 since setting the American record in 1985, seized the lead at 200 metres and held it until Meredith Rainey faded her coming off the final curve.

The weary and oft-injured Slaney not only was passed by Rainey and Mutola down the stretch but also by Celeste Halliday and Joetta Clark, and wound up fifth in 2:01.28 — more than four seconds off her U.S. record of 1:56.90.

Jim Spivey, who also failed to make the U.S. team for the World Championships, continued his recent string of strong performances, romping to victory in the mile in 3:52.74.

Danny Everett, the fourth-place finisher in the men's 400 at the U.S. Championships, took the 200 in 20.13, making him the fourth-fastest performer of the year.

Other men's winners included Danny Harris in the 400 hurdles in 49.45; Andrew Valmon in the 400 in 45.04; Llewellyn Starks in the long jump at 26 feet, 11 inches; Johnny Gray in the 800 in 1:46.00; Kory Tarpenning in the pole vault at 18-4; Brian Diemer in the 3,000-metre steeplechase in 6:55.24.



Carl Lewis

Seles, Capriati to meet in Pathmark tennis final

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — The Pathmark Tennis Classic got what it wanted: Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati in its final.

It came, however, only after Kathy Rinaldi had almost ruined Seles' much publicized return to tennis after skipping Wimbledon because of shin splints and a stress fracture in her left leg.

Rinaldi, ranked 72nd, extended Seles to three sets Saturday night before dropping a 6-2, 6-1 decision to the world's top-ranked player.

"The leg is fine, but you can see I am not in the form I want to be in," said Seles, who after the match announced she would not represent Yugoslavia in the Federation Cup in England, starting Monday.

"In the second set, I had a few bad steps," she said. "The leg was tired. I have to be careful."

The victory put Seles into the final against Capriati, who defeated Peanut Louise-Harper 6-4, 6-4 Saturday afternoon.

"I've played Jennifer a lot and we always put on a good show," said Seles, who had not lost a set in her first two matches here.

Seles, 17, looked like she would advance in straight sets as had the 15-year-old Capriati. But Rinaldi changed those plans in

the second set, running down every Seles shot and prompting the Yugoslav into several unforced errors.

"In the second set, the biggest thing was she broke me," Seles said after the 1-hour, 33-minute match. "I lost my concentration after that and she served several good games. The third set I controlled a little more."

Seles looked slow and tired at times in the second set, but not in the third. She held serve in the opening game to restore her confidence as well as her lead, then used a combination of moon balls, two-handed forehands and backhands to jump to a 5-0 lead.

Rinaldi, 24, managed to hold at love in the sixth game and force a deuce in the seventh before Seles won the final two points.

Capriati, who lost last year's final here to Steffi Graf in three sets, struggled against Harper, who at 30 is twice her age.

There were times when the opening set was up for grabs, but it swung Capriati's way on a bad call in the eighth game.

Harper was leading 4-3 and the score was tied 30-30 when Capriati appeared to hit a ball long. Harper watched the ball bounce and didn't bother to return it.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 22, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

A beautiful day to accept an opportunity now present to use your additional vitality and that clever and ingenious idea you have been saving for just the right moment to spring on associates.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Pay those obligations of all kinds whether they be business, personal or governmental and get behind you every single responsibility that calls.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to find the answer of a personal nature that are important to you to bring your personal desires to the attention of all contacts.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you would like to uncover the secret of any situation is fine now to delve into the mysterious and get it solved.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You need for some happy times with a good friend or a group of acquaintances should now be put in motion and progress made towards personal ambitions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be sure you keep an eye on whatever is public in its nature that you are doing so you make no mistakes and develop a bad reputation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have so many ingenious and clever new thoughts you would be wise to pursue just how you can put them in motion to achieve good results.

U.S. steps up World Cup planning

WASHINGTON (AP) — From Boston to Hawaii and Seattle to Miami, 27 urban hotbeds of soccer are competing to host matches in the 1994 World Cup soccer championship, the globe's largest single-sport tournament.

The U.S. organizers cited these numbers this week in Washington to emphasize growing American interest in the tournament. They want the U.S. Congress to authorize the minting of commemorative coins to help finance the month-long, 52-match tournament.

The delegation included Pele of Brazil, regarded as the greatest soccer star of all time, the co-chairmen of World Cup USA 1994, Inc., and Shannon Higgins, a member of the U.S. national women's team that will compete in the first women's World Cup in China in November.

"It has been a privilege, and I say that very humbly, to have been a small part of helping soccer conquer America," said Pele.

Since he interrupted his retirement in 1975 to play for the New York Cosmos of the defunct North American Soccer League, Pele said the number of people playing soccer in the United States has increased tenfold, to 16 million people.

Korean breaks Student Games marathon record

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) — South Korea's Yung-Jo Whang sliced 1 minute 53 seconds off the World University Games record Sunday when he won the men's marathon.

Whang covered the distance in 2 hours, 12 minutes, 40 seconds to beat the 2:14.33 Hungarian Tibor Baier set at Duisberg, Germany two years ago.

The women's gold went to Japan's Miyako Iwai in 2:36:27.

In the pool, American freestyleer Jenny Boyd set a new game record in the 50 metres beats but lost it four minutes later.

The 23-year-old Goodwill Games silver medalist clocked 26.11 to slice 0.13 second off the 4-year-old mark countrywoman Ann Drolson set in Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

But in the next heat, China's world record-holder Yang Wenqi swam 26.03 to beat Boyd's mark.

Frenchmen Stephan Caron completed a unprecedented sweep of the freestyle swimming gold medals at the World University Games Saturday, adding the 50-metre title to his victories in the 100 and 200 metres.

Slow off the block, the Olympic 100-metre bronze medalist surged past Germany's Robert Pufleb in the last 20 metres to win in 22.97 seconds.

Only Romanian Naomi Lung, who won four golds at Zagreb, Yugoslavia four years ago, has won more. Two of her gold medals came from the individual medleys.

Agassi, Korda reach Washington final

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defending champion and top seed Andre Agassi needed just over an hour to defeat Jaime Yzaga of Peru 6-3, 6-2 and advance to the final of the Sovran Bank Classic.

Agassi defeated the sixth-seeded Yzaga in 66 minutes. He will face 12th seed Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia in Sunday's final. Korda advanced with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Markus Zoecke of Germany Saturday.

"It doesn't matter who is the opponent, I'll go out to play my game," Korda said before Agassi's victory. "It doesn't matter if I play Andre, or if Jaime beats him, I'm going to enjoy it."

Yzaga was rattled by a line call during his second service game. Trailing 15-30, a call went against him and he proceeded to lose nine of the next ten points. Agassi was not in serious trouble the rest of the way.

"The scores haven't been challenging," said Agassi, who has not lost a set in nine matches over two years here. "But I always have something I want to do out there that challenges me. I was winning easily, but it has to do with my level of play. If nothing else, I just try going for shots that people wouldn't think of."

The final will be Agassi's first match of the tournament played in daylight.

NOTTINGHAM, England (R)

Absent world number one Monica Seles could find herself swiftly forgotten when the leading nations in the 1991 Federation Cup swing into action Monday.

Seles withdrew from the Yugoslav team 36 hours before the scheduled start, saying she was still suffering from a leg injury, but organizers of the 56-nation tournament are still boasting a cluster of leading players.

Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf, 15-year-old American Jennifer Capriati and Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario will all play — each keen to make the most of a rare chance to represent their countries.

The strong U.S. team featuring Capriati, Mary Joe Fernandez, Zina Garrison and Gigi Fernandez are favourites to win the event and maintain a fine American tradition.

Defending the trophy they won in Atlanta last year, the Americans have lifted the title 14 times in its 28-year history. Australia is the next most successful nation with seven wins.

Despite that imposing record, the Spanish team, based around Sanchez and Conchita Martinez, are seeded number one on the basis of combined world rankings.

Germany, spearheaded by the impressive combination of Graf and the promising Anke Huber, is seeded second with the Americans third.

After three days of qualifying matches Monday's main draw includes 32 countries.

Matches will consist of two singles matches and a doubles, a prospect which Seles decided was too daunting.

The Yugoslav Tennis Federation will have to pay a fine of \$2,000 for her late withdrawal and Seles' decision may also make her ineligible to compete in next year's Barcelona Olympics.

An International Tennis Federation spokeswoman said she had "not been losing any sleep" over Seles' behaviour and organizers are hopeful crowd figures will not be affected by her non-appearance.

The newly-constructed main court at the city of Nottingham Tennis Centre seats 6,000 spectators and was booked out for the opening ceremony conducted by the Princess of Wales.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: FOIST, ESSAY, ASTRAY, BUBBLE

Answer: He climbed out of his "status quo" in order to improve this—HIS STATUS

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS **PHYSICIAN**

"No, I've never had any heart disease...except for love."

Print answer here:

THE Daily Crossword

by Virginia L. Yates

ACROSS

1 homie 5 Occurred 10 Chipper 14 Morse code dashes 15 At no time 16 Hurry-up letters 18 Clean forgot 20 Ballering Hayden 22 Oppressors 23 Major Kasey 24 Wonders why 25 Chair 29 Tub washing 31 First 32 Miss Purdy 34 Reward 38 Toe was 40 Adopted one's John Hancock 41 Knit yourself 42 nap cloth 43 Travel 45 Zodiac beast 46 Gob 48 Put in 50 Lip and band 52 Ben Franklin 53 Avoided 55 Supposer of one's country 60 Not in a way 62 Tired 63 Entrant 64 Ease myself 66 Lost power 67 Bender 68 Chances

69 Forward rush 70 Tuber veggie 71 Rotten 72 Toward the mouth 73 Clingy 74 Wynn and Dutch 75 Slap 76 Hose huss 77 Patriotic pop

78 Forward rush 79 Tuber veggie 80 Rotten 81 Toward the mouth 82 Clingy 83 Wynn and Dutch 84 Patriotic pop

85 Forward rush 86 Tuber veggie 87 Rotten 88 Toward the mouth 89 Clingy 90 Wynn and Dutch 91 Patriotic pop

92 Forward rush 93 Tuber veggie 94 Rotten 95 Toward the mouth 96 Clingy 97 Wynn and Dutch 98 Patriotic pop

99 Forward rush 100 Tuber veggie 101 Rotten 102 Toward the mouth 103 Clingy 104 Wynn and Dutch 105 Patriotic pop

106 Forward rush 107 Tuber veggie 108 Rotten 109 Toward the mouth 110 Clingy 111 Wynn and Dutch 112 Patriotic pop

113 Forward rush 114 Tuber veggie 115 Rotten 116 Toward the mouth 117 Clingy 118 Wynn and Dutch 119 Patriotic pop

120 Forward rush 121 Tuber veggie 122 Rotten 123 Toward the mouth 124 Clingy 125 Wynn and Dutch 126 Patriotic pop

127 Forward rush 12

Financial Markets: **Jordan Times**
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Weekly Foreign Exchange Market Summary (July 15—July 19, 1991)

AFTER losing two per cent of its value under the impact of one of the most aggressive concerted central bank interventions on Friday July 12th, the U.S. currency lost a further two per cent during the second half of last week. The dollar had regained some ground on Monday and Tuesday, as dealers flirted with its upside encouraged by healthy U.S. economic data and positive comments about the U.S. economy by the Federal Reserve chairman. Wednesday, however, witnessed a change in dollar sentiment, which snowballed during the rest of the week taking the U.S. currency to its lowest levels at the end of the week.

The dollar recovered some of its value, mainly against the mark, Monday as interbank and corporate dealers seized the opportunity to buy cheap dollars, after its drop at the end of the previous week. Yet, fear of a further round of central bank intervention prevented the dollar from rebounding sharply. Observers maintained that the impact of the intervention was strong enough to limit the market's reaction to the better than expected U.S. data on Capacity Utilisation and Industrial Production released during the day. Sterling declined temporarily, on the other hand, reflecting a base rate cut by the Bank of England by 0.5 per cent to eleven per cent.

Tuesday witnessed a further dollar rise, as the U.S. currency reached its highest levels of the week against European currencies, closing at 1,800 marks and at 1,6420 dollars to the sterling pound. The dollar was supported by comments by the Federal Reserve chairman, who was quoted as saying that there are "... compelling signs that the (U.S.) recession is over and that a modest recovery has begun. Nevertheless, fear of intervention by central banks remained intact, and 1.80 marks proved to be insurmountable.

Having failed to break resistance at 1.80 marks early in the week, dollar sentiment turned bearish Wednesday. A wave of unwinding of long dollar positions ensued, especially after the Bundesbank sold dollars in the foreign market. Corporate demand provided support for the dollar at 1,7850 marks, however.

Technical dollar selling against European currencies continued Thursday, as unwinding of long positions turned into stop-loss selling, although the U.S. currency climbed to its highest levels of the week against the yen closing at 137.65 yen to the dollar. The dollar drop was accounted for by comments from U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on the possibility of the Federal Reserve cutting interest rates again, should inflation remain low while the U.S. economic recovery continues, whereas yen sentiment turned negative on news that the Japanese Ministry of Finance had reopened its investigation into the financial scandal surrounding the four major Japanese securities houses.

Friday witnessed further dollar selling activity, as the U.S. currency broke through several support levels, to close at 1,7475 marks, 136.41 yen and 1,6945 dollars to the pound sterling. The bulk of dollar selling continued to be against the mark, which gained ground against the yen closing at 78.06 yen, compared to 76.22 yen at the end of the previous week. The German currency was supported by the Group of Seven pledge to help President Gorbachev in his attempts to reform the Soviet economy. It drew further support from expectations of a possible interest rate increase by the Bundesbank in the near future.

As for this week, some observers maintained that technical factors will continue to direct exchange rates as dollar sentiment remains bearish in the short run. Accordingly, some maintained that the dollar could decline to 1.72 marks, while the next support level could be as low as 1.69 marks, if 1.72 marks is breached.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	12/7/1991	19/7/1991	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6493	1.6945	+ 2.74%
Deutsche Mark	1.7895	1.7475	- 2.40%
Swiss Franc	1.5493	1.5115	+ 2.50%
French Franc	6.0730	5.9315	+ 2.39%
Japanese Yen	136.40	136.41	- 0.007%

USD Per STG: Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	12/7/1991		19/7/1991	
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.81	6.62	5.87	6.62
Sterling Pound	11.00	10.62	10.81	10.68
Deutsche Mark	8.75	9.31	8.81	9.18
Swiss Franc	7.62	7.62	7.75	7.75
French Franc	9.50	9.56	9.12	9.43
Japanese Yen	7.43	7.25	7.37	7.21

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 21/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.685	.687
Sterling Pound	1.1591	1.1649
Deutsche Mark	.3917	.3937
Swiss Franc	.4526	.4549
French Franc	.1153	.1159
Japanese Yen	.5018	.5045
Belgian Franc	.01903	.01913

* Per 100

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Theatre

Storm over BCCI global crisis seen subsiding in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The storm over the international collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A. (BCCI) appears to have subsided on the local scene, with most local depositors assured that they will not lose their money and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) holding intense consultations over the future of the Jordanian branches of the scandal-plagued institution.

CBJ assurances that BCCI holdings and assets in Jordan are sufficient to cover deposits and permission for limited withdrawals from BCCI accounts have had a positive effect on the bank's clients, although many depositors are anxious to withdraw their entire deposits, banking circles said.

Account holders have withdrawn about JD 13 million — 50 per cent of it in foreign currency accounts — from the three BCCI branches in Jordan since they reopened July 9 after a three-day closure prompted by the seizure of the Luxembourg-based bank by European governments, BCCI Regional Manager Fakhri Bilbeisi said.

The withdrawals were permitted under CBJ guidelines which said account holders with a balance of up to JD 1,000 could get all their money and others could get JD 1,000 and 25 per cent of the balance pending a final decision on the fate of the BCCI branches in Jordan was not immediately known, but banking sources said it was not of any large significance.

Meanwhile, banking experts

said, "There is no panic among our customers," said Mr. Bilbeisi. "Some of them are taking their time for withdrawals, but sooner or later they will want the full amount as permitted," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Bilbeisi and senior banking sources said there was no question over the solvency of the BCCI branches in Jordan since almost all of their foreign currency deposits had been transferred to the CBJ before the international operations of BCCI collapsed with the seizure of its assets in Europe on July 5.

Deposits with BCCI in Jordan in foreign currency were said to be equivalent to JD 29 million and in local currency at around JD 36 million prior to July 5.

In addition, all assets of the Jordanian branches of BCCI are within Jordan, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

No figures were available on outstanding dues by debtors to the BCCI in Jordan, but banking officials said all large lending transactions were closely monitored by the CBJ under stipulations introduced since the collapse of Petra Bank in 1988, ensuring that there would only be very minimal bad debts.

Reports from London indicated that part of the bank's local credits in various countries had been taken by the clients' international deposits with BCCI as collateral for overdraft and lending arrangements.

The volume of such credits extended by the BCCI branches in Jordan was not immediately known, but banking sources said it was not of any large significance.

Reports from London indicated that part of the bank's local credits in various countries had been taken by the clients' international deposits with BCCI as collateral for overdraft and lending arrangements.

The withdrawal of BCCI in Jordan is another option facing the CBJ, but the expert opinion of bankers in the Kingdom is that such a step would be the last resort for the CBJ.

"It is doubtful that CBJ would order the liquidation of the bank since all indications are that the institution is more or less in a strong situation on the local scene," said an economic analyst.

The international course of events related to BCCI will have a major bearing on the CBJ's decision, although no step taken on the international level against BCCI is applicable in Jordan since all banks in Jordan — whether international or otherwise — are governed only by Jordanian banking regulations," said a senior official at a large local bank.

Survey finds reforms vital to avoid stagflation in India

NEW DELHI (R) — India must introduce structural reforms to avoid "stagflation," the government said in an economic survey.

The economic survey said the economy had been battered by a balance of payments crisis, big budget deficits and double-digit inflation.

"Credible structural reforms designed to improve the efficiency and productivity of resource use is an inescapable necessity, if the unavoidable fiscal adjustment is not to lead to stagflation," the 200-page report said.

Stagflation is a combination of industrial recession and high inflation.

The Congress government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has moved quickly to try to revive an economy burdened with a \$71 billion foreign debt.

It devalued the rupee by 19 per cent against the dollar, enacted sweeping reforms to a restrictive trade regime, pledged substantial amounts of its gold reserves to raise overseas loans and promised to overhaul the state-dominated industrial sector.

India's gross national product (GNP) rose about five per cent in

the financial year that ended in March 1991, compared with 5.2 per cent the year before, the survey said.

Inflation measured by the consumer price index was 13.6 per cent against 6.6 in the previous year.

"This higher rate of inflation is also a cause for concern because the price increase has been large in the case of several essential commodities," it said.

The budget deficit in 1990-91 rose to 107.72 billion rupees from 105.92 billion the previous year.

The deficit would be brought down to 6.5 per cent of GNP in the new budget from its current 8.3 per cent, the survey said.

Diplomats said the deficit reduction was a key condition laid down by the International Monetary Fund before it will give India a \$2 billion loan, expected by October.

"Both the Gulf crisis and domestic political developments affected confidence abroad to the Indian economy. It became more difficult to borrow in international capital markets," the survey said.

The kingdom, the world's biggest oil exporter, has been exploiting other resources to diversify its income.

Riyadh announces gold find

NICOSIA (R) — Gold has been found southwest of the Saudi capital Riyadh, the Saudi Press Agency has reported.

It said Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazer briefed a cabinet meeting on the find at Hamdah. Sheikh Nazer said he did not yet have full details of the discovery.

Saudi Arabia's second gold mine, in Al Qasim district northwest of Riyadh, started production last month.

The kingdom, the world's biggest oil exporter, has been exploiting other resources to diversify its income.



Kuwait says foreign banks clamouring to lend it money

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait says international banks are clamouring to offer it money following its decision to borrow billions of dollars on world capital markets to finance post-Gulf war reconstruction.

Kuwait did not want to borrow the full \$33 billion authorised by the emir last week. Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan was quoted Sunday as saying in the Al Watan newspaper.

"They could transfer the license to another existing bank or a new entity without raising the number of banks in the Kingdom," said one expert. "They could find buyers for BCCI on the local scene or they could merge it with another large Jordanian bank," he said.

The CBJ, under the guidance of Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, is known to favour the Iraquis. Last week put a ceiling of 10 billion dinars (\$33 billion) on its post-war borrowing.

"We set this ceiling so that we need not resort to amending the law (to authorise more) if the need arose. But the need will definitely be lower than the ceiling," Sheikh Rodhan said.

He said Kuwait had decided against dumping its \$100 billion plus foreign investments because of the impact such a move would have on world equity markets.

The Kuwait Investment Authority has begun surveying markets around the world to borrow money. These funds will be made

available to finance the proposed budget for 1991-92 and other financial commitments that arose as a result of the Iraqi occupation and part of the costs of liberating the country," Sheikh Rodhan said.

Kuwait, deprived of its major income, needs cash to finance its budget, post-Gulf war reconstruction and pay for the war efforts of the U.S.-led military alliance.

Iraqi soldiers set fire to up to 600 Kuwaiti oil wells, most of which are still burning.

Kuwait was capable of producing two million barrels of oil a day before the Aug. 2 invasion. It is now pumping about 140,000 barrels for domestic consumption.

The finance minister said Kuwait's economy would improve when oil revenues started rolling in by the end of the year. "Our situation will improve when we start oil production," he said.

Earlier this month it was reported that a select group of banks was expected to be asked to agree \$2 to \$3 billion in credit, the first tranche in the emirate's planned fund-raising drive.

The reports said the credit would be tightly held by the banks in the group since they did not wish to dilute their lucrative relationship with Kuwait by distributing the credit to competitors.

The finance minister also said



that the budget for the year up to June 1992, delayed because of the Gulf crisis, will be ready in September.

The minister told the newspaper the government did not want spending in the financial year 1991/92 to go beyond the \$11.4 billion originally forecast for 1990/91.

Kuwait budgets run from July 1 to June 30 the next year.

The 1990/91 budget, presented in July last year, was interrupted by the war.

"It is difficult to give a final figure for the budget because it is still being prepared. We will try as much as possible not to allow the budget of this year to exceed last year's," Sheikh Rodhan said in the interview.

Smaller Japanese securities join big 4 brokerage scandal

TOKYO (R) — Japan's brokerage scandal spread at the weekend to include at least four medium-sized security houses which improperly compensated special clients for stock market losses, newspapers reported Sunday.

New Japan Securities Co. Ltd., Kankaku Securities Co. Ltd., Kokusai Securities Co. Ltd., and Wako Securities Co. Ltd. are suspected of covering client losses of 20 billion yen (\$147 million), said the reports in several major dailies.

An official reached Sunday could not comment on the reports that about 20 small and medium-sized brokerages might eventually be involved.

Pretoria reels under 'dirty tricks' charges

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A row over secret state funding of the Inkatha Freedom Party has revealed only the tip of the South African government's "dirty tricks" iceberg, an opposition politician charged Sunday.

The funding row has confronted President F.W. de Klerk with one of the gravest crises of his term in office and prompted political commentators to suggest the government may have been guilty of far worse abuses.

Kobus Jordaan, a member of parliament for the Liberal Democratic Party, said he had been told late last year that the government had a secret five million rand (\$1.7 million) shush fund.

"I assume the Inkatha payments were just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "When I asked about this money in parliament earlier this year the reply was that it would not be in the public interest to disclose details."

Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and leading newspapers demanded the resignation of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok following the disclosure Friday that police had paid Inkatha 250,000 rand (\$90,000) to stage two rallies.

"De Klerk needs to act drastically and decisively," the widely-read Sunday Star said in an editorial. "For a start he should dismiss Mr. Vlok and (Defence Minister) Magnus Malan."

The paper also reported fresh allegations that an army unit was responsible for killing blacks at random to stoke friction between

Inkatha and Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). The defence force denied the report.

The Star said Mr. Vlok's admission of help for Inkatha gave weight to charges that security forces were involved in township massacres.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times said the shush fund revelations meant that accusations that Inkatha had tried to destroy the ANC. He has also charged that a "third force" is trying to sabotage peace talks with Mr. De Klerk.

Political commentators urged Mr. De Klerk to restore his credibility to keep power-sharing negotiations on track.

"(He) is in danger of being dragged down by the sinister forces that lurk in his government," the Sunday Times said. "If his historic endeavour to turn this country from the path of destruction is to proceed, he must soon gain control."

Democratic Party MP Jordaan said he did not think Mr. De Klerk was personally involved in secret payments, adding: "I still believe in his integrity."

A spokesman for Mr. De Klerk said he would have no comment on the latest charges, but noted that the cabinet would hold a regular meeting Monday when the issue would probably be raised.

"It is a closed chapter," he said.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, whose mainly Zulu supporters are locked in a four-year feud with the ANC that has killed about 5,000 blacks, denied knowing about the payments.

Mr. Mandela, in Spain on the

first leg of an 18-day foreign tour, said the government aid for Inkatha threatened negotiations on a new non-racial constitution.

"There can be a complete breakdown in relations between the ANC and the government," he said.

Mr. Mandela has long accused the government of siding with Inkatha to try to destroy the ANC. He has also charged that a "third force" is trying to sabotage peace talks with Mr. De Klerk.

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Meanwhile, a school in Pre-

toria intended for use by the African National Congress (ANC) was damaged by a bomb blast Sunday for the second time in a week, police said.

They said the bomb blew a hole in the wall around the unused Hillview School. No one was hurt.

Last Sunday a 25-kilogramme bomb, believed to have been planted by right-wing whites, demolished a section of the school building.

The government allocated the school in a white suburb to be used by the ANC for children returning from exile in Tanzania.

In the Cape province city of Port Elizabeth, about 200 whites staged a march Saturday to protest at coloured (mixed race) families who have moved into their previously white suburb.

The protesters, carrying posters demanding that the Algoa Park suburb remain white, paraded outside the homes of two of the coloured families.

"Nobody can claim to have the monopoly of wisdom to determine what is right and proper for all countries and peoples. It would be condescending, to say the least, and suspect for the West to preach human rights to us in the East," he said.

A critical report by Amnesty International and recent publication of a controversial "human freedom index" by the U.N. Development Programme has annoyed Asian officials. So did suggestions by the European Community that expanded trade and aid with ASEAN could depend on human rights in the region.

Besides Malaysia, ASEAN members include, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines.

The conference resumes Monday with three days of talks with their major trading partners: The United States, Japan, European Community, South Korea, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

In his opening speech Friday, Thai Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin spoke of "unpalatable attempts to link environmental concerns and human rights with economic cooperation."

He referred to ministerial talks in Luxembourg in late May between ASEAN and the European Community. ASEAN rejected an EC attempt to link respect for human rights in Asia with the relief ministry official said.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said 15 of Bangladesh's 64 districts have been ravaged by the floods and the heavy rain this week.

Tens of thousands of mud-and-straw houses have been washed away and many people were living on roofs of brick houses. Thousands of acres of crops also have been flooded, he said.

Many homeless people have taken shelter on makeshift bamboo platforms on trees, flood protection embankments and raised railway tracks, the official said.

"There may be up to 4 million people affected by the floods," including those who have been left homeless or stranded and whose fields and businesses have been destroyed, he said.

At least 10,000 people have become homeless since Saturday in the northern district of Sirajganj alone, United News of Bangladesh news agency said. The area is 105 kilometres from the capital of Dhaka.

Police said 15 people drowned in the Ganges River in Sirajganj while two others were washed away in the northern Sherpur district.

As an example, Mr. Mahathir cited a petition to withdraw Malaysia's U.S. trade privileges.

"(U.S.) labour organisations may seem to be concerned with the welfare of our workers, but should their petitions result in the withdrawal of GSP privileges, the net result will be to reduce investments in our country and create unemployment among the workers," Mr. Mahathir said.

The Sandinistas "opened the way towards socialism to save the values of humankind and to guarantee peace with justice and respect for human rights, freedom and democracy," he said.

The congress, the first-ever held on a national scale by the Sandinistas, was also directed at self-criticism.

"Our election defeat has brought to light, by means of a



F.W. de Klerk

ASEAN rejects bid to link aid to human rights

LONDON (R) — Some of Britain's most famous army regiments will march off the parade ground and into the history books under defence cuts expected this week.

Despite battle honours dating back more than 300 years, the regiments have lost their right against a government determined to reap a peace dividend from the end of the cold war.

The army cutbacks have aroused fierce anger among soldiers and senior members of the ruling Conservative Party.

Defence Secretary Tom King has already announced that the army will fall by 40,000 to 116,000 men over the next three years and on Tuesday the cabinet is expected to decide which regiments will be disbanded or merged.

In setting the overall manpower level Mr. King left it to army chiefs to draw up their own casualty list among the regiments.

In wide speculation over where the axe will fall, local news reports have suggested a last-minute reprieve for a few units.

Serving officers are forbidden from public comment, but retired generals have sprung to their old regiments' defence.

Clamorous public relations campaigns have been waged alongside discreet lobbying exercises in the corridors of power.

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, chief of the defence staff from 1982 to 1985, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that the government had gone "over the top" in cutting the regiments.

Mr. King says the cuts are "careful and prudent." The reduced Soviet threat means Britain can dispense with 30,000 of its 55,000 soldiers now based on the Rhine in Germany.

There will also be no need for 3,000 men in Berlin and 2,000 in Hong Kong, which goes back to China in 1997. Including men

on training for these roles, that adds up to the 40,000 to be cut.

At the victory parade for Britain's Gulf war forces last month, heir to the throne Prince Charles said the cutbacks would leave the army "overstretched."

The army points to the British regimental system, with its time-honoured customs and family ties going back generations, as a unique means of focusing loyalty among fighting men.

Not only are regiments threatened, but so are ceremonies such as piping the haggis by the Scots Guards and the carrying of shepherd's crook by the Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders.

In his opening speech Friday, Thai Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin spoke of "unpalatable attempts to link environmental concerns and human rights with economic cooperation."

It is difficult to give an exact picture of the death and destruction. The flood water is inundating fresh areas every minute," a relief ministry official said.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said 15 of Bangladesh's 64 districts have been ravaged by the floods and the heavy rain this week.

Tens of thousands of mud-and-straw houses have been washed away and many people were living on roofs of brick houses. Thousands of acres of crops also have been flooded, he said.

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As an example, Mr. Mahathir cited a petition to withdraw Malaysia's U.S. trade privileges.

"(U.S.) labour organisations may seem to be concerned with the welfare of our workers, but should their petitions result in the withdrawal of GSP privileges, the net result will be to reduce investments in our country and create unemployment among the workers," Mr. Mahathir said.

The Sandinistas "opened the way towards socialism to save the values of humankind and to guarantee peace with justice and respect for human rights, freedom and democracy," he said.

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Anger voiced at U.K. army cutback plans

All sides agree on the need for defence cuts following the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. The government says NATO will裁 one million fewer East Bloc troops and 30,000 fewer tanks by the mid-1990s.

Britain's navy will be reduced from 63,000 to 55,000 personnel and the air force will be trimmed from 89,000 to 75,000.

The Defence Ministry wants an army pruned from 55 to 36 infantry battalions but senior military, men believe 41 are needed if the army is to meet its commitments.

They say a lesson of the Gulf war, to which Britain sent more than 40,000 men, is that the armed forces must be in a position to respond to the unexpected.

General Sir Martin Farndale, chairman of the Royal United Services Institute, a military think tank, strongly condemned the government's plans to cut the army.

"To hurl the whole army into turmoil and to slash its capability by so much at such a time is dangerous and irresponsible," he said in a letter to the Daily Telegraph.

Mr. King says the cuts are "careful and prudent." The reduced Soviet threat means Britain can dispense with 30,000 of its 55,000 soldiers now based on the Rhine in Germany.

There will also be no need for 3,000 men in Berlin and 2,000 in Hong Kong, which goes back to China in 1997. Including men

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Column 10: Second operation needed to retrieve scissors

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — An Egyptian was operated on twice in two weeks — first to repair injuries from a land mine explosion and second to remove a pair of scissors left behind in his abdomen, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Saturday. The Arabic daily Al Qabas said the patient, Khaled Ramadan, underwent an operation but complained of continuing pain. Doctors at Al Sabah Hospital ordered an X-ray, and Ramadan was shocked to learn about the scissors but had no choice in giving up the anesthetic.

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